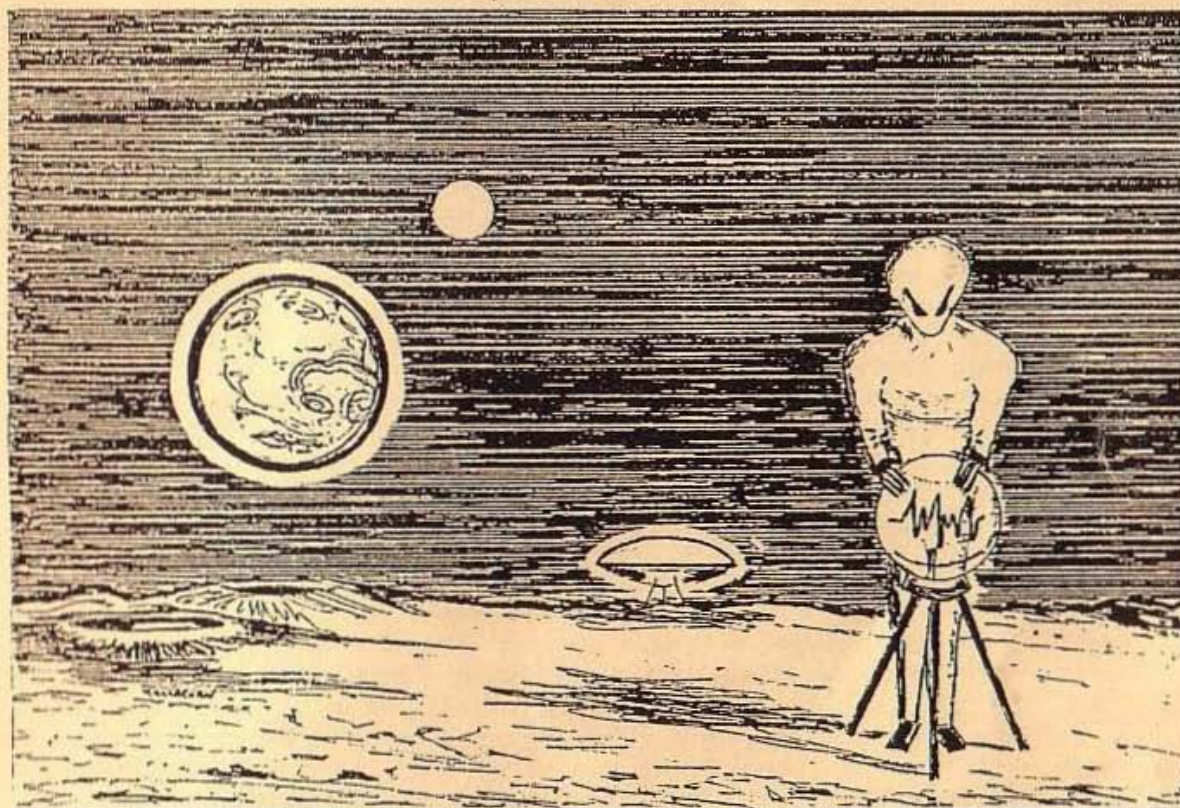


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

162
Sept 1993

All the news, views and up to date cases £7 for six
Editor: Jenny Randles



COVER DESIGN:- BILL CALLAGHAN LOGOS BY:- BILL CALLAGHAN

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37 HEATHBANK ROAD STOCKPORT CHESHIRE SK3 0UP

APOLOGY: Yet again I do have to apologise for the very late running of this magazine. Plans to rename it BR News are already in motion (unlike BR, which usually is not). Pressure of work was to blame, but I have added 4 extra pages and the October issue should follow within the month...I hope.

J. R. Comments. . . During the summer a highly instructive case took place in the Hartcliffe area of Bristol. It was the subject of intense media debate and then discussion at the BUFORA conference which by lucky chance was set to be at the city's university soon after. Reverberations are echoing around the UFO community. So what can we learn from the affair?

The incident began during the last few days in June when news began to filter through to BUFORA that lights in the sky were plaguing this district of the very pleasant old and hilly city on England's south west coast.

The local paper broke the story on 28 June with 'lights in the sky UFO alert' and told how a streetfull of neighbouring skywatchers had from 27 June observed the objects floating past during an all night vigil. Though unsaid, they were prompted to do so by the sighting of a large cigar shaped object, possibly with windows or portholes, that drifted majestically over the rooftops on 26 June. Sadly this most interesting sighting soon got swamped amidst the media fiasco that grew around other events that were to follow.

The paper told how various lights, some moving slowly, others barely doing so at all over long periods of time, were witnessed throughout the night. The airport (itself not too far from the site) denied any unusual movements. The weather centre disputed that they were aware of anything which could be the cause. The mystery as a consequence deepened.

Taking to it with particular gusto the Bristol evening paper played it for what it was worth, with picture stories and front page items. The street party UFO spotting continued and more lights were seen. BUFORA, no doubt mindful of the advantage to plug the conference, then only 3 weeks away, were not unhappy that the flames of the mystery were failing to go out.

Enter astronomer and UFO debunker extraordinaire, Patrick Moore. He may know a lot about stars and meteors but, for me, his remarks about UFOs could be summed up in one word - 'bolides'. Patrick gave the media what they wanted - an answer, and a fine one at that, by telling them that the dozen or so regular skywatchers were viewing a display of the northern lights - the aurora being so good that it was seen far south of its normal visibility zone. Pat Delgado of crop circle fame disputed this and supported the view that real UFOs were involved. Sadly, no actual UFOlogists were consulted. BUFORA was getting on with the job of investigating the matter, but the media were focusing on their 'celebrity' spokespeople and, in turn, ensuring that the saga rumbled on towards nowhere fast except a long running story.

Naturally, from the very start I - and all the investigators I spoke with at that stage - knew there was a credibility problem here. UFOs just do not turn up night after night, let alone parade in front of witnesses for five hours at a time. At least, if and when they do, in my experience they ALWAYS turn out to have a conventional explanation. An astronomical one was clearly a prime suspect from day one here - but any look at the details of what the witnesses were reporting (which, to be fair, I suspect Patrick Moore was neither offered and never sought) quickly illustrated the nonsense of his dazzling aurora theory - or, indeed, any single solution.

BUFORA's first man on the scene was Alan Woodward, who lives in the city. He shocked me by recognising the astronomical probabilities but adding that on 27 June, night two of the affair, he had seen the big white UFO!

According to Alan it hovering for about 10 seconds and then blinked out. But he did not know what it was.

By now Doug Cooper, one of the most active UFOlogists in Britain these days, had decided to motor up from Devon and spend time skywatching with the residents of Pavey Close in Hartcliffe. According to his regular phone chats with me something strange was going on; although I did keep stressing to a man who (in my experience) is a good investigator that the repetitive nature of the sightings urged there to be an explanation. He left me in no doubt that he realised that fact too, but as he said to me - what is it?

The media were having fun. They sent reporters to the party. They laughed - until they also saw steady white lights flickering red and green and moving white lights crossing the sky, plus, of course, the 'big daddy' of the Bristol UFO world - which rose around 3 am and climbed steadily skyward as the dawn came and the southern sky lightened. Even a policeman called to the scene told the national press (the rather ironically named 'Daily Star') that this, er, daily star, had 'no earthly reason for it'.

The media were not short of ideas. Someone suggested laser lights. Indeed there was a laser show that might have explained some of the earlier lights, but not the majority of them. Others suggested artificial satellites, which, indeed, some of the sightings made during the frequent skywatching probably were in my opinion. But again not all.

Convinced by now that 'the big one' which was appearing on every clear morning was the most important thing they were watching, Lee Winterson (who has now formed the Bristol UFO Research Group to pursue enquiries) decided to concentrate on that and video film it. He quickly succeeded - the bright white light making its spectacular (if rather monotonous) appearance sitting there in the post dawn sky, and was - well, just like a big star.

Those of you with any investigative background may already have got out your reference books and figured out that there is a very obvious candidate for the big 'star' seen every clear dawn in June and July - the planet venus, which was very bright at that time. Needless to say this was rapidly mooted as the answer to Doug, but the media were disinterested. Doug Cooper took our idea to Patrick Moore, who played another blinder by advising the starstruck witnesses that venus could not be seen in daylight unless you had 20/20 vision. As Doug had seen the 'UFO' but was awaiting eye surgery for cataract removal, he not surprisingly found my conviction that the ever present UFO had to be venus not exactly persuasive.

Of course, what Patrick Moore forget here was that this was not a group of people stepping out of their well lit homes at 8 am to look for venus in a bright blue sky. They had been sat out in the dark all night watching stars, meteors, satellites, possibly even the odd UFO, with their eyes becoming adapted in the process. They were watching venus all the time as it rose and faded into the daylight. That's why they could see it. Yet even these folk all said that the 'UFO' eventually went dimmer and dimmer each day and was finally lost into the glare of daylight - a giveaway of its status.

Sadly, Patrick's involvement in a field with which he has too little familiarity (although I am quite sure done with the best of intentions) provoked the Hartcliffe watchers more into a belief that something strange was going on. As they told me when I met them in mid July - 'we have had so many different answers from so many different 'experts' we do not have a clue who we are supposed to believe.' I spent some time trying to convince a group of them that the 'big one' was - without the slightest possible doubt - venus and, whilst they listened patiently, I do not think I made much impression. They told me their video was with NASA in the USA for analysis.

The conference offered a chance to try to get the record straight. On the night beforehand, 23 July, several of the witnesses showed their video and faced a team of UFOlogists, including Walt Andrus, Philip Mantle, Sue Henderson and myself on 'Wire TV' in a 30 minute debate. This was networked around the UK (and in several European countries too via satellite). As one - in remarkable unison - we UFOlogists told them that the video showed venus. I said it in such categorical terms that I later wondered if I had gone too far. Oddly, next day, Philip Mantle was quoted by the local press as refuting the venus option; although seeming to accept the UFO as 'natural'.

After the show Sue Henderson and I agreed to visit Hartcliffe the next night and spend some time on Pavey Close watching the sky with the witnesses and trying to help them understand what was up there. It was the only fair thing to do. Philip Mantle refused to join us. However, we did persuade an interesting group to join this skywatch, including: Ken Phillips, John Spencer, Paul Vanbrabant and psychologist Dr John Shaw.

At Pavey Close, a little cul-de-sac, with some open waste ground at one end, we saw plenty of stars, a couple of satellites and some evidence from one or two present (although not all the witnesses - the majority of whom were objective, sincere and genuinely interested in getting to the truth) that autokinesis was a factor. In other words, they saw what were 'stars' moving, when it was, in fact, the clouds which were doing that. They also had a problem deciding if one bright star was a star. We were told of the large object that started the affair and one witness reconstructed the incident on site. It might, conceivably, have been an airship; although it spanned two chimney pots on the adjacent roof in angular size! It is undoubtedly a lot more interesting than the repetitive lights, the various misperceptions and the video film of venus which represent 90% of this media hyped incident.

I left Pavey Close urging the witnesses to forget the film and the big 'UFO', because it was, beyond any dispute, just venus. To my knowledge all those UFOlogists present that night will back that conclusion; although we did arrange for Ken Phillips to return to Bristol and take some anamnesis data from the witnesses and document any earlier paranormal experiences. I told the skywatchers that it was very much in their own interests to accept what was on the video; otherwise when it was proven, as it would be, that they had seen and filmed just venus, everything else which they were reporting would be junked along with it by impartial outsiders. People would assume that these were misperceptions too. It is possible that the large object that first got them into the skywatching habit might have been a genuine UFO. But its validity and its value must be in stasis until this group of witnesses acknowledge that their video film does depict venus rising.

Given all of the above, I was less than happy with a report on the Bristol conference by Gerry Lovell in his otherwise fascinating 'Annals' magazine (Oct 93). He states that two lecturers at the conference 'both with accumulated years of investigative experience' must have seen it was venus after visiting the site, but then inexplicably and by innuendo implies that we may never have even tried to persuade Doug Cooper and the witnesses of this mundane solution before they gave their presentation.

As one of those whom, from the context, I assume was being singled out here, I do regard this as a disconcerting remark. Gerry Lovell could have ascertained all of the above facts by simply asking me. I told Doug it was venus as soon as I had data at hand. I went public before a 1 million audience insisting it was venus. I went to Pavey Close and tried to convince the witnesses by reasoning. All before Doug and the skywatchers addressed the conference. Quite what more I could have done I would love to know.

NEWS ROUND UP



:: Tim Good was a little perturbed by my review of 'Alien Update' in the last issue. I couldn't blame him for that. I should stress that by suggesting that books such as this one are a big financial success (in my usual ironic style) I do not, of course, mean that Tim is only in it for the money. That is the last thing Tim is. I have known him for pushing 20 years now and, whilst we disagree on quite a lot about the UFO scene (but agree on quite a bit as well) I have always been impressed by his serious intent, doggedness and honest motivations. He just happens to believe what most folk want to hear.

As for his decision to back George Wingfield to continue to write circle updates in his books he tells me that, whilst George holds 'extreme views' he feels that he has done 'fine work' in the field and that, regarding crop circles, Tim himself believes 'we are still left with a residue of genuinely anomalous events.' Fair enough. I still think he has the wrong person writing these overviews, but we will agree to disagree.

:: Paul John in Hereford wants to make it absolutely clear that HE is not the anonymous 'Herefordshire man' whom I mentioned in the last NUN in connection with attempts to argue that 'untruths' about the MoD featured on a TV documentary. The said man is known to me by name and I can assure readers it is definitely NOT Paul - a fine UFO investigator.

Paul John now operates HURG (the Hereford UFO Research Group). They investigate cases and publish a local journal and I can recommend them. The address has been added to the back page listings of the NUN. See also their one day conference coming up on 9 October.

:: Another new group who have asked to be added to the list are BRUFOP (Barnsley Research UFO Phenomenon). Again see the back page listing.

:: Still on the group scene, Ken Higgins tells me that (despite stories being circulated to the contrary) SRUFO (Scottish Research into UFOs) has not been totally disbanded and he continues his research under that banner. So they too are returned to the list (we are going to need an extra page for all these addresses soon!)

Ken adds some interesting observations about Bonnybridge - the 'capital of the UFO world' as one recent media story called this small town. Without disparaging all the sightings made there since late 1992 as being hoaxes (which he does not contend) he does feel that 'Bonnybridge is being put on the Scottish map for the wrong reasons'. He says there is an unprecedented level of sensationalism that has been afoot. Certainly, we have noted before in NUN that a town council member has been active (possibly mindful of what happened not all that far away at Livingston New Town). UFOs have their attractions if a few are seen locally and your aim is to get folk to notice your town. A lot cheaper than bidding for the Olympics!

:: Fancy a UFO comic (no - not one or two of the experts I could name!) Weird Science-Fantasy have a UFO special out (dated August 1993). It is, in fact a reprint of a 1954 original and tells the story of some of the early US cases in a colour picture strip over 32pp. \$12 (includes 3 other non UFO issues) (US currency only) Russ Cochran Box 469 West Plains MO 65775 USA

:: Midnight Books new catalogue is out with secondhand titles on a range of subjects in the area of the Unexplained. There are several pages of UFO offers including rarities like Jimmy Guieu's 1956 work 'Flying saucers from another world' (£10) and a hard to get hold of copy of 'UFOs: A British Viewpoint' from 1979 at £9.50. Tel (afternoon or evenings) on 0395-515446 or send SAE : Midnight Books The Mount Ascerton Rd Sidmouth Devon EX10 9BT

Snippets from readers:-

:: Nick Redfern is compiling data on the 'sky crash' at Llandrillo, in the Berwyn Mountains, Clwyd, on 23 January 1974. I know the area well, spending weeks on end there in the late 70's and early 80's when my boyfriend had a caravan moored outside the village. I've walked the desolate mountains (by a stone circle site) and talked to villagers who saw the strange lights that rushed through the sky and heard a huge explosion on that night.

Officially it was an earthquake (tracked on seismographs as far away as Edinburgh) and the lights were just a 'meteor' breaking up. But there are some similarities with the Rendlesham Forest case 6 years later and I share Nick's interest in the matter. The RAF 'cordoned off' the hill for a couple of days looking for debris - a fairly odd thing to do if it was just a meteor. They reputedly found nothing. There is a brief account of this in my 1983 book 'UFO Reality'.

In many senses this does sound like a classic 'earthlight' - which Paul Devereux has suggested. The Bala fault runs right through the area. Paul is aware (as I sent him an account at the time - around 1980, I think) that my boyfriend and I both saw a wispy column of vapour rising like smoke from a rock face beside the River Dee on one of our many stays at Llandrillo. I thought at the time it was possibly some kind of earth emission as he has often written do relate to certain active fault zones. It was certainly odd. I do not know if other EL type events have been described in this fairly remote location - which is not too far from where earth mystery researchers Janet and Colin Bord later moved.

On the other hand, a quite odd 'secret document' was sent out to me by APEN (that weird organisation nobody ever traced but who claimed military contacts) - sometime early in 1975. In this they alleged that a UFO landed at Llandrillo that day and the aliens told the farmer they contacted only to talk to APEN - giving out the groups ex-directory phone number!

If anybody knows more than this about the Llandrillo affair then do let us know for NUN... And if you can aid Nick's quest then contact him at:-
20 Paradise Lane Pelsall Walsall West Midlands WS3 4NH

WHERE IS UFO BRIGANTIA ?

This is a question far too many of you have been asking. Brigantia is an independent magazine published by the IUN and we agreed a joint deal with editor Andy Roberts some years back. The idea of reduced subscriptions to receive both publications was a special service to you. Sadly - despite endless requests by letter, phone, personal contact, getting the Mafia onto him, etc, the distributor has stopped sending me a year ago; (a) the money and (b), far more importantly, details of any joint subscribers who paid through Brigantia. As such maybe dozens of people who paid the IUN for the NUN are only getting Brigantia's (one) issue during the past year - no NUNs. Since I don't know who they are I can't send on copies, even without their money. I gather that some subscribers who paid us are also not getting Brigantia.

I have given this a long time - probably too long - desperately hoping the IUN would sort it out internally, as they should have done by now. But nobody seems to have been capable of responding to my frequent protests or the angry letters from subscribers (some having contacted me) and there is absolutely no excuse for the continued failure to supply joint subscriber details so that I can send copies of NUN onto these people - as I have been ceaselessly requesting, with increasing frustration, since autumn 1992.

Several people have written asking where their NUN issues are. I have to tell them, of course, that I have never even heard of their subscription details or seen any money they may have paid to the IUN. Two subscribers have become so upset by months of inactivity that they were talking legal action against Brigantia and the IUN. It is hard to blame them.

Editor Andy Roberts, with whom I struck the deal out of considerable personal respect, has left Brigantia (he must be fed up by all this too). So I have had no alternative but to end our joint subscriber deal forthwith.

I will be as fair as I can be over this. I will offer any assistance to any agrieved party. All those who paid NUN for both magazines in the past six months have not had any money forwarded to the IUN black hole, but held in abeyance safely. Their NUN subscriptions will be extended by me to ensure they will not lose out on any copies. Anyone who paid the IUN but have not received NUNs because the money that they paid them plus their details as subscribers were never sent to us by the IUN (ie everyone during 1993) can take out a special reduced rate NUN subscription to try to help out.

I am desperately unhappy at having to do this or say such sad things about a respectable organisation like the IUN/Brigantia. But I have given them many chances to sort this all out and I believe that I now owe it to you - the subscribers - to take firm action and end association with a publication that displays awesome neglect of its readers. We must respect those people who keep UFO journals afloat (ie the paying customers). Common decency alone demands a far better service than Brigantia are giving.

PARAMNESIA by Albert Budden

A short while ago I came across reference to paramnesiac states in Dr Maurice Craig's study of psychological medicine. There are relevant implications for UFO investigation.

These states, or illusions of memory, refer to incidents which never occurred but which nevertheless seem to be familiar; so familiar, in fact, as to seem to have been part of the subjects past experience. Individuals recognise the mental process of 'memory recall' by the feeling-tone that accompanies it. Should this arise with any sort of perception the result will be recognised as what we call a memory (even, it seems, if it is not).

A common example of paramnesia in normal people is when they have been told a story about a certain event (either a second hand account from another person or a fictional tale) and this is retold several times. On each retelling it can seem as if it really happened to them and ultimately they become convinced that they were really present when the incidents took place. The feeling-tone of familiarity is supplied by prior recountings and creates the illusion of an actual memory.

I think it relevant how witnesses to UFO experiences are asked to repeat details many times to check for inconsistencies. Apparently sincere consistency is then accepted as a hallmark of truth. This artificial process rarely occurs in ordinary life and seems like a 'test' to a witness.

However, it now appears that such repetition can actually instill the paramnesiac effect and create a sense of sincerity or truthfulness in the witness. Sources for the effect may include fantastic tales expressing in symbolic form an individual's personal crises or an exaggerated story that is based on a small but yet real and unusual event. A bit like the fisherman's tale of the one that grew bigger and bigger each time. I believe that Adamski's stories come into that latter category. Another option is the fantasy compiled by a witness to gain attention or status and become part of the 'witness as a celebrity' scene that our society has imposed.

All such sources of 'creative testimony' can be consolidated under the paramnesiac effect induced, rather ironically, by investigators who are trying to be sure of the 'facts' of a case. I have often asked witnesses to 'go over it again, just to get the facts straight', or, 'would you mind repeating your story to my colleague here?' These processes seem simple and logical but may now be considered counterproductive.

I think investigators should try to stagger their requests for a witness to repeat the whole story. Also remember that consistency may no longer be as important as we think. I have cases where a witness undeniably did have an experience (it being an IFO so I knew exactly what it was) and yet they forget details on retelling. So consistency is not the key.

I now wonder two things. Firstly, could the paramnesiac effect become so strong that it can create a pseudo-memory that would override a polygraph test? And, rather more disconcerting, which cases in the UFO literature have become classics primarily as a result of the paramnesiac effect?

Editor: This fascinating piece from Albert is dated 1 August. Soon after he submitted it I became aware of the experiments that John Spencer has been associated with this year using hypnosis. This aims to instill a belief in an abduction amongst volunteers who have not had such an experience. It seems proof of the paramnesiac effect that such people emerge with a belief that the abduction did occur; although video recordings prove to them how it was created by constant retelling under hypnosis built onto a story which they were inventing as they went along. Ethics of this experiment aside (and several people have already expressed doubts to me about it) I think the results in John's next book will be intriguing and, of course, parallel data that has emerged in previous studies about the use of hypnosis. Albert's paper suggests that we should not restrict our concerns to hypnotic regression testimony. Of course, BUFORAs NIC has had a self imposed moratorium on regression since 1987. Yet no sceptics organisation has ever congratulated us for doing that, even though they are quick to express their qualms about this work as used during the alien abduction evidence...JR

CIRCULAR LOGIC



It seemed impossible that cereology (a word that entered the Oxford dictionary in 1993) could survive another summer intact. But it has. Indeed, media coverage, mostly carrying on as if Doug and Dave had never been around, was 50% up on 1992 and the usual 'conferences' were well attended.

How has such a miracle been pulled off? Everywhere I go people tell me crop circles 'were all a hoax, weren't they?' and I have to try to explain otherwise. They cite Jim Schnabel's entertaining book, but I fear my concerns about it's content as expressed in the last NUN have come home to roost.

Everyone has read the book as proclaiming that all circles were fakes made by various 'field artists' (the latest code for hoaxer). The New Scientist review (10 Jul) is a case in point. It suggests that Terence Meaden 'exchanged information with the crazies' and then went out completely 'on his own' until hoaxing revelations proved that 'neither the dotty lot nor Meaden could command any credence'. A good example of how Schnabel's worrying expulsion from circle history of contributions by serious research during the past four years has had a devastating effect.

Indeed, in retrospect I am much less thrilled about his book than I was when I read first it. My doubts over his omissions have crystallised. Now I fear his well crafted (but rather limited) presentation may have set serious research back as far as 'Circular Evidence' did in its own way. Indeed it has, by mere coincidence, done a better job for any mythical government disinformation campaign by destroying any likely sensible research than Doug, Dave and the Today newspaper could have ever done!

And yet, had only Jim simply told the full story of those latter years his book could have demonstrated that behind the hoaxing lay a few real circles. Of this I do not have the slightest shred of doubt. The evidence is overwhelming and it is very sad that Schnabel did not make this clear.

As such we have been back in the bad old days this summer. Circles were promoted in Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Sussex and Kent (the latter being universally decreed as hoaxes). A giant phallus appeared near John Major's home (pictures of which did not appear in the national press!)

Although Terence Meaden spent most of the summer out of the cornfields, Pat Delgado was almost silent and Colin Andrews more often in the USA, he was quoted as hoping to get a job with the United Nations investigating circles. He addresses them in October, the press reported. Of course, newcomers have arrived to offer the party line. A CPR member, Jeff Birks, commented on a formation at Codicote that 'it could be some form of communication from alien beings in preparation for more information to come.' Asked if she was worried about being abducted by these (decidedly slow to get to the point) aliens, the woman living in the house by the circles said no... If they turned up 'I'd set the dogs on them!'

Marilyn Preston in Devon told her local paper a different story. She reckoned that the plague of hoaxers had sent the aliens packing. 'They were trying to give us a message - trying to guide us into the next century.' She says it may be many years before they decide it is worth coming back.

Doug and Dave made one last assault, having seemingly failed to sign up the book deal which they and mentor Ken Brown were seeking. So they presented two public lectures (in Wiltshire and in London) - or rather Doug did, as Dave was described as being absent due to problems with his memory.

These were lively affairs, packed out and well presented by a couple of serious newspapers. They signed off by showing photographs to prove their case, eg of the first of the three 1980 circles at Westbury which the farmer John Scull destroyed before anybody else got there (see 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved' p.12) It is likely that only the hoaxers could have had such a photograph and they offered other evidence to support their claim, which Paul Fuller and I have long accepted, that they have made dozens of circles since 1976 - but not, of course, those outside of Wessex or even more than 10% of those in Wessex (which has been their modest argument).

Even more importantly, but largely forgotten, Doug and Dave say they modelled their hoax on the (seemingly real) circles seen in Queensland in 1966. So it is by no means ludicrous to claim that behind the complex hoaxes lie a few real, simple circles (my position in NUN for several years now).

What is disconcerting is that when they said at the first lecture (and were quoted to such an effect in the media) that there are no photographs of pre 1976 circles with sharply defined edges; ergo they invented the crop circle form we see today, Paul Fuller showed both they and the audience several examples from Australia and Canada of exactly that. Yet seven days later they repeated the claim at their second lecture and were again cited in the press to this effect. The hoaxers will do themselves no favours by reacting like this. It will undermine them in some folk's eyes.

Some of the hard evidence was published on 31 August by Paul Fuller and I in our updated paperback of 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved' (Hale). Although we only had limited opportunity for change we discarded chapters in exchange for a new history section at the start and an updated review of cases and research post 1989 at the back. We think it reaffirms that the many hoax formations simply swamped real, single circles that appear a few a year around the world - always having done so.

Of course, it has been greeted with deafening silence from the media. I did succeed in getting some attention for my chapter on 1992 circle activity in my (rather over priced in my view) book 'The Paranormal Year: 1993 edition' (published by Hale at the same time). But, of course, nothing to dent the attention that 'Round in Circles' had achieved.

There was an excellent full page article in the 'Northern Echo' dated 31 August for which Nigel Burton should be applauded. He reviewed all three books referred to above side by side. He offers a fair and detailed series of comments on the reality behind the circles mythology.

Mind you I was brought down to earth by this piece to read how Mr Burton 'as a teenager...remembered looking forward to a good read when I spotted (JRs) name on the spine of a book in the 'paranormal' section of my local library. A terrific compliment, as intended, I know, but one guaranteed to make me feel about 110 years old! (Who said you thought that I was?)

None of this compares with Eric Beckjord and Joan DeNeve, over from the USA to launch 'Operation Magpie' (how long before these birdie project names get around to the more appropriate 'Operation (dead as a) dodo'?)

It seems that Magpie's main effort went into writing messages in a field to attract an alien response. They placed words such as Man, House, Water and Love in corn and then added ('because we assumed that the aliens probably wouldn't be able to speak English') stick drawings of the same symbolic themes etched beside the words. This was at Broad Hinton. Two days later at Silbury Hill the aliens sent what was 'obviously the response we had been looking for'. What great secrets of the universe were spelt out in this way? What message of hope for humanity's future did the aliens project? 'Mr Beckjord replies; 'It was the symbol for the disabled as you see outside a toilet'.

Operation Magpie interpret this as a sign that the earth is in big trouble. I think I can agree with that.

PS: I will review the 1993 circle magazines in the next NUN.

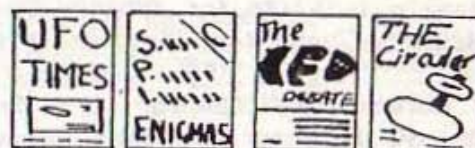
UFO CALL IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Often the only way to bring truly up to date news on UFO activity is through the UFO Call UK phone service (updated each weekend). Regular callers over the past 200 editions (we hit that score on 2 October) should note that the number has been altered slightly by regulation from 0898 to:-

0891 - 12 18 86

FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles elsewhere



Three new magazines to mention this time. Kevin McClure has an interesting new offering from the same stable as 'Common Ground'. This one is called 'Alien Scripture' and its theme is summed up on the cover as 'If we are not alone then who is talking to us and what are they saying?' - ie it reviews all sorts of 'alien' contact (not simply ET in orientation). There are excellent opening pieces by Hilary Evans and Martin Kottmeyer on the central theme, plus plenty of news snippets. The idea is to issue this in sequence with the more general 'Wild Places' (four of each per year). I think Alien Scriptures catches the zeitgeist and has a promising future. £2 or a 4 issue sub is £7.50 (£9 Europe, \$18, US) from: - 'Kevin McClure' at: - 42 Victoria Rd Mount Charles St Austell Cornwall PL25 4QD

The Hereford UFO Research Group also has a newsletter out at £1 for number 1 with news, reports and data on the group (see address on p.20)

Finally, MUFON NYC is the newsletter of the New York branch of MUFON. This is a tastefully designed simple little newsletter, packed with US data - shows how well you can do with a computer DTP programme. \$8 for 4 (you may have to pay more from the UK) via: - Box 1072 Brooklyn NY USA 11219

Magonia June (£4, for 4, 5 James Terrace Mortlake Churchyard London SW14 8HB)
Interesting reappraisal of early abduction complexities by Peter Rogerson.

SPI Enigmas Aug (£10 for 5, 41 The Braes Tulliboddy Clackmannan FK10 2TT)
Seems to get better and better each issue. 44pp this time. Reviews the Sheffield conference, interview with Bill Moore, the Japanese invade Bonnybridge, plus oodles more on Loch Ness, Poltergeists, the Yowie of Oz, etc.

Skylink Aug (£6, for 4, Roy Lake, 10A Tudor Rd Barking Essex IG11 9RX)
Detailed reports, particularly on London area lectures and sightings abound in this journal. Seems good value for money.

World UFO 4 (£5, for 4; Ed Harris 16 Newton Green Gt Dunmow Essex CM6 1DU)
Within days they had a transcript of my 13 August appearance on GMTV in here! Also lots of chatty letters and copies of press stories. Improving.

Skeptic (£12, for 6, The Skeptic (Dept B) Box 475 Manchester M60 2TH)
Detailed interview/review of 'The Afterlife' being predictably scathing but making no mention of the time we spent in the interview discussing recent constructive comments on 'The Skeptic' in the NUN - all of which, the magazine has utterly ignored. Can anybody find out why they act like this? They never review the serious, analytical books we write (eg 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved') - Is it fair to guess because they couldn't rebuke these?

PSI Researcher (£7.95, for 4; SKS 20 Paul St Frome Somerset BA11 1DX)
Now this is a magazine that is open minded and sensible. Probably the best UK publication for serious paranormal debate. In the Spring and Summer issues there are articles, detailed lecture reviews, letter debates, reports on phenomena and experiments all reported in nothing like the dry style that the SPR is famous for. Its impressive stuff and I recommend it highly.

Annals June (£6, for 4; Gerry Lovell 8 St John Street Wells Somerset BA5 1SW)
Assorted news items and short briefs. A bit like a supernatural teletext.

J. Meteorology (£24, for 10; 54 Frome Rd Bradford on Avon Wilts BA15 1LD)
Always interesting items of possible relevance. Jul: has discussion on ice rings and water vortices... Sep: a detailed paper on vortices from the wakes of aircraft and photographs of water whirlpool circle and ring formations.

IUR (\$30, for 6; CUFOS 2457 West Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659 USA)
May Detailed analysis of the 'Pentacle Letter' reported in Vallee's latest book. Plus a sceptic/believer debate on parts of the Roswell testimony. Jul
Yet another theory to explain Roswell and a catalogue of early UFO crashes.

MUFON Journal (\$30, for 12; 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin TX 78155-4099 USA)
Jun The Manhattan Transfer witness writes her first personal account. Jul
Good issue with pro/sceptic debate on the above case, an analysis of the Roper poll results and David Gotlib on false memory syndrome research.

BAE Aug (\$25 CAN mon order; 2 St Clair Ave West, Ste 607, Toronto, ONT M4V 1L5)
Speaking of David Gotlib, if you want to keep up on fms (see above) or the sort of psychological work that Albert Budden writes of in this NUN this is the place to find it. Easily the most indispensable journal for all CE 4 researchers, digesting mainstream journals, reviewing relevant books and engineering debates on key issues involving major researchers. Don't miss it.

Just Cause Jun (\$20, for 4; CAUS PO Box 218 Coventry CT 06238 USA)
Excellent stuff on the serious side to researching the official angle in the USA by Barry Greenwood/Larry Fawcett, authors of the superb book 'Clear Intent' and in that vogue. Good detailed review of the 1952 Washington wave.

Strange 11 (£13.50, for 4; Mark Chorvinsky Box 2246 Rockville MD 20847 USA)
If you like FT you'll love this. Large format US equivalent packed with small items and larger articles on all things paranormal. Its less quirky and more directly relevant than FT in many ways (FT has sadly drifted more into 'man bites dog' type stories). Usually some UFO pieces in each issue.

Phenomena (150FF for 6; Box 324 13611 Aix en Provence Cedex 1 France)
Jun The French side of the 31 March 1993 Cosmos case (see NUN 160) plus new data on the UMMO contact Aug The full official report now released on the famous Belgian Air Force radar/visual from March 1990. Good newsy French mag
Also part of AESV, who publish the above, is OVNI Presence (a second French language glossy). This is packed with interviews and more detailed accounts. The Mar issue has a major retrospective on Aime Michel who died last Christmas. Plus unique French perspectives on enlevements (abductions). OVNI Presence costs 140FF for 4 from BP 57 13244 Marseille La Plaine Cedex 1 France. Oddly I can trace no reduced price joint deal (please correct me if wrong Perry). If you read French then don't hesitate. The best there is.

ORGONE 93

Andy Collins ran a successful experiment in the crop fields of Wiltshire during July to test his 'Orgone Energy' theory, as proposed in his book 'The Circlemakers'. Andy has a questing conference coming soon (see p 20) plus a new Orgone Newsletter.... Details from: 20 Paul St Frome BA11 1DX.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



Seeing and believing by Nigel Watson 32pp A4 1993 Price £4.99
 Valis Books 52A Lascotts Rd Wood Green London N22 4JN

Now, if I were the sort of person lots of people reckon that I am I would give this book a terrible review. You see, in my opinion, Nigel Watson's report on 'From out of the blue' as featured in Fortean Times last year was amazingly inept and quite misleading. I doubt he really read the book as he published mistakes turning some facts on their head (which, by the way, FT have since refused to correct to their readers).

That aside, I review books on their merits - not past prejudices (although that resolve would be tested if two UFologists, on either side of the Atlantic, were to send in books!) I've known Nigel too long and been reviewed badly too often to let that influence my judgement.

This is not a book, as such, more a privately published large format booklet. It has b & w (rather dark copy) illustrations and is well laid out but really resembles a special issue of Magonia, say, than the full scale book that was Nigel's Portraits of Alien Encounters. As such, the price might be considered to be on the steep side; but that is a subjective opinion and you do get a great deal of research material packed in for your money.

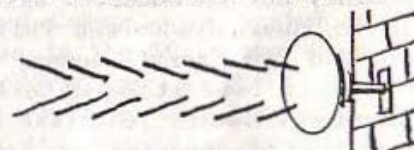
The booklet calls on Nigel's two areas of expertise. He was a UFologist first and foremost (one of the original founders of NUFON still going strong). Much later he became a specialist in the film and TV industry. So he writes here about how UFOs and alien contact have been portrayed by the movie business down through the years.

It is informative, covers most films that I have heard of and many more that I have not and is bang up to date (including 'Fire in the Sky' and quotes about that). The patterns come out quite well and there are useful comments about the interactions between real UFOlogy and the version portrayed on the big silver (or, perhaps here, the little grey) screen.

Overall this is an interesting, tantalising piece, but with its short length a wee bit limited in implementation. They do say that the object in the cinema is to leave you wanting more. This 'long article' certainly does that. It is well written, educative and clearly has its valuable uses to the specialist. Only you can decide if £5 for 32pp is a price that you will pay.

MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the public eye



'Strange but true' got a much earlier than expected network screening this month. I was only given enough notice to put this onto UFO Call but the 9pm Friday night slot ensured that the 13 minute feature on the Todmorden/Bacup UFO window that I compiled with LWT (see NUN 160) got a big audience and a lot of media attention. As I expressed two issues back I had my reservations and those of you familiar with the earthlights/vortex/UAP will have the edge over 99% of viewers who interpreted my seriously hacked 15 second appearance as a sceptical portrayal of a looney theory. You should also beware the LWT decision to say Todmorden was the key. In fact half the cases we featured occurred in Rossendale. The whole area is the window.

There was some interesting response. Jeannette Kupfermann in the Daily Mail (4 Sep) accused me of not explaining how 'a geological anomaly can...disturb the mind'. We've since had an interesting debate. She claims to know about UAP, accepts the theory and says her original article said all this, but it was edited out because the Mail had too many adverts that day.

There have also been some curious pseudonyms afoot lately. The Independent (14 Aug) reputedly got vox pop comments on UFOs from real people who told them 'its only a matter of time before aliens make contact' or the touching naivety of 'If there was anything trying to contact us from space Patrick Moore would have told us already'. But the names of these ordinary folk should make one doubt their authenticity. We had 'John Moon of Sheffield', 'Nick Armstrong of Cardiff', 'Mary Rockett of London'... Me thinks there is something a bit sub-orbital about that lot.

The Mansfield Chronicle (23 Jun) featured a letter from one J. Allen Lowneck. The paper obviously assumed he was a real person, not being UFO literate to see the sham. Said Mr 'Lowneck' protested not to be a UFOlogist (but some dirty tricks between rival UFOlogists have hit the town). He claimed '100% of these co called UFOs' over Pleasley were just aircraft. A week later Tracey Hollingworth replied for the local group, berating the abuse of J Allen Hynek's name and sensibly disputing the aircraft theory. She told what UFO stood for and how UFOlogists have a scientific approach.

The Aberdeen Press (13 Aug) offered a mystery. They told how a witness was coming to the Sheffield conference to describe his abduction 'by two martians in their silver, egg-shaped spaceship'. But three days later they reported that he failed to show up! Had he been abducted again? Were the aliens afraid of their secrets coming out? Philip Mantle explained how the man had called 24 hours beforehand to scrap his lecture. He said 'he had his reasons' but would not elaborate. The paper tried to get him to talk but he clammed up on them as well... MIBs at work in Aberdeen? Who knows?

But no column would be the same without the dear old Sunday Sport. On 18 July they had an exclusive photo of an, er cloud, oops, sorry, as the Sunday Sport handbook of meteorology describes such a thing, a spaceship, over Balmoral Castle. UFO watchers are apparently convinced the royals are a target for a CE 4; although another source implied the UFO might be an MI5 weapon. Bonnybridge council got in on the act - councilor Buchanan affirming possible alien interest in the castle only '70 miles' from his town.

Later, the Sport, with this amazing nack of finding 'UFOlogists' to quote whom nobody has ever heard of and who are never heard from again (possibly not unconnected with the fact that no actual UFOlogists will ever talk to them), discovered Philip McEwan of 'Cumbria UFO Outlook' (eh?) who supported the Sport's looney trick photo of John Major with horns sticking out of his head. It seems aliens have 'seen news footage of (the PM) and believe all humans look like him.' Ergo they have cloned hundreds of PMs to visit the UK. Hundreds of John Major's! Aaagh! Come back the gelatinous blobs from zeta reticuli... But then - have you seen the cabinet lately?

BRIEF CASES

Some current investigations



A *Sounding*... is how NUN reader Mr S from Doncaster, South Yorkshire, describes what happened to him on 3 June 1993. He wonders if any readers have any comments on what might have been responsible?

- ① At 23.25 he awoke to look at his battery alarm clock and was struggling to get back to sleep when he heard 'a strikingly piercing sound' of high frequency and swinging about. It went on for several minutes and then stopped, then restarted briefly, then stopped again.

Mr S noticed an Oz factor effect (ie no ambient sounds as you might expect on a summer night). Later that night (at 03.05) after he had left the house, his mother heard a noise as if someone was trying to get into the back door. Mr S checked for signs of a break-in, even on the roof. There was nothing. The neighbours had seen and heard no sound. But he said the noise was 'unearthly' and seemed to be scanning from side to side.

I had a sneaky suspicion that I had heard what Mr S described for myself. Living opposite a sports centre their new alarm was going off at all hours during the summer (the latest design seemingly being so sensitive a drop of rain can set it in motion). The racket is piercing.

On 7 July Mr S heard it again at 04.35 and taped the noise on his stereo. He says he has been told it is a self resetting burglar alarm. But 'I still have a lingering doubt in the back of my mind.'

I recall in 1978 when police on the East Lancs Road introduced a new wailing siren we got several UFO 'soundings' as a result of that. Mind you 'Close encounters of the third kind' was doing the rounds at the time.

More from Muchalls

Thanks to police officer Fergus Storrier for supplying data on his investigations in this town near Stonehaven in the north east of Scotland.

Case 6813 tells of how Mrs M (with an MA degree) had a CE 1 at noon in June 1968. She observed a silver ellipse coming in from the sea, descending and veering north west. She reports 'there was an eerie feeling as it passed... All the birds (ie squaking gulls) fell silent. I felt as if hypnotised.' Fergus reports that helicopters using Dyce (Aberdeen) airport are common and a fault line runs through the area. Two 'lines of enquiry'.



6813



6919

Case 6919 occurred on 22 May 1969 and involved Mrs K, a teacher, on the A 92 with her parents after visiting a relative in Aberdeen hospital. It was 20.30 on a sunny evening and they had passed Cammachmore police station when they saw an object coming in from the sea in the SE. It was descending fast and glowed red as if on fire. They feared an aircraft about to crash. They stopped at the side of the road, switched off the engine and prepared to get help. However, when it got to the height of the telegraph poles the object moved off to the west. At closest sight they could see that it was an egg shape made of polished metal akin to two saucers on top of one another. There were no windows. They saw it from three sides for 4 mins.

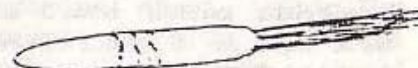
The strangest feature was the 'cone of gasses' that came in a plume at the rear, coloured turquoise and green, merging into a rosey hue. This made the outline shimmer as if trapped in haze. With the windows wound down they could hear a high pitched humming noise. The sighting was reported to the police who said others had also witnessed it and it was a 'meteor'. BUFORA records describe nothing on that night but do have a meteor seen on 21 May at 21.17, visible for 6 seconds. This seems unlikely to be the same object.

Case 6814 Oct 1968

Boosbeck, Cleveland

Inv: Gloria Dixon

Mrs B was waiting for a bus to go to the harvest tea from this village near Saltburn. Three others were with her. Hearing a noise 'like a high pitched whirring' they looked up to see a dark torpedo shaped object with flames emerging at the back. It was red but small objects circled the centre like bees creating the noise. It was first seen over the North Sea and then headed westward over the moors, at a low altitude and moving slowly. It was visible for about a minute before disappearing. One possible solution suggested by the appearance is reentering space debris. Does any investigator have knowledge of any candidates from early Oct 1968?



Case 8761 Feb 1987

Brownhills, West Midlands

Inv: MUFORA

Mr R was taking his daughter aged 11 to a guides meeting at 18.30 when to the north they saw lights. He stopped the car to get out and observed a formation of multi-coloured lights - a cluster of pulsing blue in the centre and amber and white on four arms of an 'X' shape. No structure was seen behind them. His daughter was too scared to get out of the car. Three identical objects 'flying in echelon formation' passed over heading south. There was no sound. Superficially this has some similarity with the mid air refuelling exercises mounted by the USAF during the late 1980's. The lights in those cases were on many aircraft flying very high (thus silently) but were commonly interpreted as part of only a few smaller, much lower craft. Mr R has a second interesting case to report from 1993 in the next NUN.

Case 9230 8 Nov 1992

Evesham, Worcestershire

Inv: Kevin Owen

Mr B, a BBC engineer, observed an orange ball of fire whilst driving just outside of the town near Wickhamford at 16.30. This rocky, faulted area is classic earthlight territory, of course. It had a powerful glow and was visible for 45 seconds before vanishing 'as if being switched off'. In an excellent investigation Gary Anthony could offer no astronomical solution (eg reentry or bright meteor). The Met office data supplied shows misty and drizzly conditions. Nick Pope at the MoD quite sensibly suggested a military jet with afterburner. Possibly ejected fuel was again a culprit - and USAF Upper Heyford (a major source of such problems - NB the famous Peter Day movie film) could again be involved given the location and parameters. My guess is this will have been a jet with reheat seen through the mist.

Case 9309 26 Jan 1993

Kingsthorpe, Northants

Inv: MUFORA

Mrs C was looking SW at 18.10 when she saw two 'tadpole' like objects moving very fast and horizontally on a south to north course. They were both coloured yellow/orange with heads 3 times the size of their bodies. Sparks seemed to emerge from the rear. After a few seconds they vanished. Her husband suggested meteorites, but Mrs C disputes that solution. The size of the bulbous head indicated to her that, if meteors, 'they must have weighed hundreds of tons'. Any other ideas? A similar object was seen by Mrs C at 18.23 on 10 February 1993. This implies there should be a natural explanation to whatever these things were. But what? The similarity with the 31 March 1993 Devon case of 'two concordes stuck together' is interesting.

CASE HISTORIES

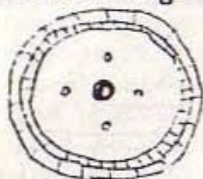


ON THE MACCLESFIELD ROAD

Investigation by Omar Fowler of PRA

- This case was one that came to light via my appearance on ITVs 'This Morning' in June. Thanks to PRA for a speedy follow up; although more work is to be done considering the possibility that it might be a CE 3 or 4. It is yet another to occur near to Macclesfield, Cheshire, a town with quite a UFO history. In the past this has not been unconnected with the amount of air traffic heading into Manchester which passes over here at a surprisingly low height, enhanced by the fact that the roads themselves are elevated by the Pennines. It is easy not to appreciate your position above sea level.

Mrs H from Derby was returning home with her boyfriend and her sister after a wedding reception. It was between 00.30 and 01.00 one night in February 1987. For ten minutes as they drove south eastward they had watched a 'bright star' ahead of them. It then began to move and stopped in front of them much lower than before now having the appearance of being stainless steel and circular. The object 'sat' there for a further few minutes and then tilted on edge to reveal its base. In this position they received very



close up views of the thing. They saw a row of windows and railings going around the rim of the 'craft'. There was a red glow in the midst of the base and some flashing red/white/blue and green lights surrounding this. At first the object had seemed to head straight at them but it flipped over a second time and just disappeared. Mrs H said 'you never actually saw it go - it went that quickly.'

Upon arrival in Derby Mrs H phoned the 'local airport' (one assumes East Midland, rather than Manchester, from whence any aircraft would much more probably have come in this location) but was told little. The next morning a newspaper report apparently mentioned a UFO seen over Macclesfield police station and the details from the police were said to be identical (including railings and portholes). The red glow in that case 'lit up the whole street'. Mrs H is certain this has to be the UFO they saw.

PRA explored the option of a time lapse by asking if the journey took longer than expected. Mrs H said; 'It didn't seem to', noting the weather was bad so they probably went more slowly than expected and they also stopped for a time en route, but added that they left the reception at 23.00, expected to be in Derby by 01.00 but did not make it there until 02.20.

Both Mrs H and her boyfriend (now husband) say on their report forms they were on the M6 motorway - seemingly a non direct path from Manchester to Derby. But if they did use the M6 then it passes no nearer than 14 miles west of Macclesfield; although it goes right under the flight path into Manchester Airport. Several 'close encounters' have resulted from unfamiliar travellers on this part of the M6 at night. Were these witnesses used to this route? In neither NUFON nor BUFORA files can I find a record of the police sighting. Can any reader help here? Investigations proceeding.

WELSH VALLEY CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Report by Leyton Williams-Davies

An excellent investigation report by Leyton Williams-Davies describes a sighting that occurred on 2 November 1989 in a rural steep sided valley just north of Cwmtillery, Gwent.

The witnesses were three youths aged 11 (L, S & C), who were gathering wood for their annual bonfire night celebration. It was about 18.00 on a dark night with a clear sky. The location is encircled by disused quarries, old mine workings and fault lines, some exposed and others covered by rough grassland. There is also pond and a reservoir here. A better location for earthlight activity would be difficult to imagine.

The youths were walking on a track towards the only local habitation - Gwyrhyd Farm - when L saw a white light about 200 feet up on the hillside to the east. It was moving north and seemed to be a headlight on a car on the road atop the ridge. But then the object left the road and climbed skyward in a rapid and graceful arc. L called to his friends and all three watched as this strange object crossed the road about 150 feet ahead of them, now heading west and at only about 30 feet, actually, they thought, clipping the tops of some trees on its wide circular path.

The boys describe the object as being a small disk with a flat base. It had a dome on the upper surface. The size was akin to a small family car. It glowed with the intensity of a room light. On its westward curve the object climbed a little and maintained a very rapid - if tight - circuit of the valley. It also exhibited a rather curious motion, as if hugging the contours of the hills. Each circuit took only about 5 seconds to complete. It was moving much faster than an aircraft or helicopter. After the fourth of its circuits the object moved away in a northerly direction at a very steep upward angle, climbing very fast and disappearing from view in a matter of just a few seconds. The three witnesses were left extremely frightened by their close encounter.



Rushing to the farm, a few hundred yards further on the track, they met the farmer who has since attested to the investigator that he was convinced by the shocked state with which they first told their story. The farmer's son drove the boys home and L's parents then phoned the police in the nearby town of Abertillery. Two officers were sent to the location, in case a light aircraft had been in trouble. But they found no evidence of this.

A few days later L developed red and swollen eyes which were irritated for a short while. S and C had no such effects and no direct relationship with the sighting can thus be surmised. The Abertillery police inspector who handled the case confirmed to Leyton that he accepted the sincerity of the three witnesses, despite their age. They were 'badly shaken' by what happened. Leyton, after interviewing L and S (but no C), is satisfied by their testimony which seems free from over-exaggeration. The MoD have no other cases for that night on record (nor do BUFORA) and no solution to offer for the event. This seems quite likely to have been a genuine UAP encounter.

Quantock Update

Report by Ken Phillips & Judith Jaafar

Readers may be familiar with this extraordinary case via recent reports published by these BUFORA AIs in UFO Times. I thought it appropriate simply to provide a summary and update on the alleged events here. The incident was reported to the MoD in October 1992, who involved BUFORA as part of our new policy of mutual cooperation. It is certainly the most amazing claim to be yet referred via a government department to a UFO group, perhaps anywhere in the world, and, aside from the two investigators named above has involved several others, notably Robert Moore.

Briefly, in daylight on a sunny day in May 1988, Tony B was taking photographs on the Quantock Hills north of North Petherton in Somerset when he observed an object flying towards him making a low noise. It reputedly flew directly over his head very low down, appearing the size of two fields and blocking out the sun. In shape it was like two saucers with stacked decks and protruding wings in a fantastically complex shape. He took several close up photographs as it passed directly above, including one where an entity was seen standing on the rim. A wave of heat struck him from the object as it flew past, 'burning the negatives'. Others did not see the object, but later a UFO flew over the B's garden and a small green rock (like fuzzy melted plastic) was found in the grass and placed in the B's fish tank for safe keeping, despite the fear that it was radioactive. Tony also developed very serious ill effects (at one stage believing he was dying). He claimed weakness, inability to eat solid foods, extreme sensitivity to all electrical equipment, a metal taste and much else. He received medical and protracted psychiatric treatment but was released. It was at this point that he contacted the MoD in frustration and turned to BUFORA as a virtual last resort. Both investigators were deeply upset by his physical condition.

Much debate in BUFORA's NIC has resulted in a series of tests since December 1992. Kodak have ignored pleas to have the photographs analysed. But frankly (in my personal view) they show a blurred mess which it is hard to equate with the account of the witness and probably will prove useless in any evaluation of the story. Various reasons might account for this.

The rock was, at NUC urging, sent to the British Museum for analysis. On 18 February Jerome Perkins confirmed that it was 75% silicon dioxide with various other traces including copper oxide (giving the colour). It has been 'heated to a high temperature and vitrified as glass'. It has definitely been manufactured into this constituency. Identical material is sold by pet shops and at Harrods for ornamental use in fish tanks.

Medical data on Tony B has proven hard to establish. His GP has refused to comment. Jill Wilkinson of the radiological protection board says his symptoms are not consistent with radiation sickness but might indicate extreme sensitivity to ionizing radiation as emitted by electrical household equipment. Rare people are known to suffer from this. In July 1993 BUFORA funded an appointment with Dr Peter Fenwick, a neurophysiologist at a London hospital well known for his work in certain bizarre encounters (eg the 'Story of Ruth' saga). He refused to divulge details but affirmed that in their view Tony B was improving, partly due to the friendship shown to him by Ken and Judith and that there was 'nothing seriously amiss' with his health. BUFORA NIC have, as such, terminated further expenditure on the case.

Final words

Lots of conferences and events to describe for the dark autumn nights ahead. So I shall press straight on:-

9 October at the Lancaster Pub on Bridge Street in Hereford (7pm to 11pm) is a one day conference organised by HURG with Ray Moore, Andrew Watson and possibly others. £3 on the door or £10 including overnight B & B.

23 October at Dr Johnson's House, Bull St, Birmingham (1.30 to 4.30 pm) a BUFORA regional lecture featuring Albert Budden on the Rowley Regis CE 3

30 October at Institute of Psychiatry, Wolfson Lecture Theatre, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 a one day conference at £45 including lunch and tea on science of mind and brain involving various scientists such as Drs Peter Fenwick, John Taylor and many others. Will be quite complex. For details call Dr Fenwick's secretary 071-703-5411, ext 3278

6 November at BUFORA lectures new venue King's College Campus on Campden Hill Rd, near High Street Kensington tube (6.30 to 9.30 pm) Arthur Tomlinson will lecture on 'Northern Contact Cases' (inc his personal investigation of the Ikley entity case). All BUFORA lectures (Birmingham, above, inc) cost £3

6 November at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, near Holborn tube (morning and afternoon) '5th Psychic Questing Conference' with Andy Collins, Graham Hancock, Debbie Benstead and others £9 via 0373: 451777

Finally, MUFORA is organising a special one day event : 'Mysteries of the Mersey Valley'. It will feature lectures by Peter Hough, Jenny Randles et al and will focus on strange phenomena in north Cheshire, South Lancashire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester. The event will take place during the full afternoon of Saturday 27 November at the Parr Hall, Warrington. Attendance will cost £5. Full details available from Peter Hough (after 25 Oct - please send SAE for rapid reply after that date) via 6 Silsden Avenue Lowton Warrington WA3 1EN or Telephone: 0942-604265

NUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(Scotland)	41 The Brees, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire	FK10 2TT
SRUFO	(Scotland)	129 Langton View, East Calder, West Lothian	EHS3 0RE
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
LAPIS	(Lancashire)	58 Torsway Ave, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 3 8JZ
MUFORA*	(North & West)	6 Silsden Ave, Lowton, Lancashire	WA 3 1EN
IUN	(North & East)	1 Woodhall Dr, Healey Lane, Batley, W. Yks	WF17 7SV
BRUFO	(S. Yorks)	107 Gerald Rd, Kendray, Barnsley, Sth Yorks	S 70 3BQ
PRA	(Derbyshire)	12 Tilton Grove, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston	DE 7 4GR
ENUFORA	(Notts)	8 Roosa Close, Bulwell, Nottingham	NG 6 7BL
PARA-SEARCH	(W. Midlands)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, W. Mid	DY 8 5HL
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	12 Unicorn C/van, Unicorn St, Thurmaston	LE 4 8AX
NUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF
HURG	(Hereford)	6 Whitehouse Dr, Kingstone, Herefordshire	HR 2 9ER

* NUFON archive files held in central Manchester accessible c/o MUFORA T:0942-604265

You can visit the files by tram getting off at the St Peter's Square Station in the Manchester City centre. Bona fide researchers are welcome but calls in advance to the above number are essential.